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Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know whether any works are going on at all at Hare Island ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No capital works."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I enquire what they mean by capital works ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Only maintenance works are going on."

Mr. Daniel Thomas :—" May I know, with reference to the answer to clause (c), whether the whole of the engineering and other staffs are still being retained ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I want notice, Sir."

State Prisoners

Detention of Mr. Santa Singh in the Madras Penitentiary.

* 1028-A Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the circumstances under which one Mr. Santa Singh is detained in prison ;

(b) whether he is confined in the Penitentiary, Madras ;

(c) what is the offence for which and under what procedure or regulation the said Santa Singh is being confined ;

(d) whether Mr. Santa Singh was duly tried before any magistrate and if so, when and on what charges ;

(e) whether any police officer from the Punjab visited Mr. Singh in the prison ;

(f) whether he had a talk with Mr. Singh in the Penitentiary recently ; and

(g) whether any 'statement' was recently taken from the said Mr. Singh and if so, to what effect ?

A.—(a) to (g) As the hon. Member is aware the Local Government are merely the agents of the Government of India in regard to this matter. Mr. Santa Singh is detained under the orders of the Government of India ; this Government cannot undertake to answer any questions in regard to the action of the Government of India or any of its officers.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" I suppose the hon. the Law Member can state without referring to the Government of India whether he had a talk with Mr. Santa Singh ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" There is no such question on paper. The question was whether a police officer visited Mr. Santa Singh."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" May I know whether the hon. the Law Member had a talk with Mr. Singh ? "

The hon Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Mr. President, Sir if you think that that supplementary question arises from this answe I am prepared to answer."

The hon. the President :—" It does."

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I had a conversation."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"What was the thing which the hon. the Law Member gathered from that conversation ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am not prepared to divulge that."

Detention of Mr. Santa Singh in the Madras Penitentiary.

* 1028-B Q.—Mr. C. N MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Santa Singh of the Punjab is a State Prisoner in the Madras jail ;

(*b*) whether Mr. Santa Singh was arrested on 5th November 1927 and whether he has been in jail since that date ;

(*c*) whether any enquiry has been held relating to Mr. Santa Singh and whether any charges have been framed against him ;

(*d*) the circumstances under which the Government have caused the detention in jail of Mr. Santa Singh without any judicial trial and without any judicial finding against him ; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to enquire into the case of Mr. Santa Singh ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1028-A (starred).

Detention of Mr. Santa Singh in the Madras Penitentiary.

* 1028-C Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when and for what offence Mr. Santa Singh of Contepent, Amritsar, was arrested and confined in the penitentiary ;

(*b*) how long he has been in jail ;

(*c*) what was the state of his health on 5th November 1927 when, as alleged, his car was stopped on the way to Tindivanam by the Criminal Investigation department ;

(*d*) what are the reasons for keeping him in jail without any trial ;

(*e*) whether he has been made aware of the charges against him ;

(*f*) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to acquaint him of the charges against him, and give him an opportunity to defend himself in a Court of Law ;

(*g*) whether any, and if so, how many persons there are in the Madras jails similarly imprisoned ; and

(*h*) when the Government propose to release him ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*f*) & (*h*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1028-A starred.

(*g*) There are no other State prisoners detained in Madras jails under the orders of the Government of India.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I know, Sir, seeing that the answer to clauses (*a*) to (*g*) and (*h*) is that the Madras Government are only the agents of the Government of India in arresting him, whether they are not the